

ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN



ALL IN

13+
TEEN

5



AARON
SANDOVAL
ARREOLA

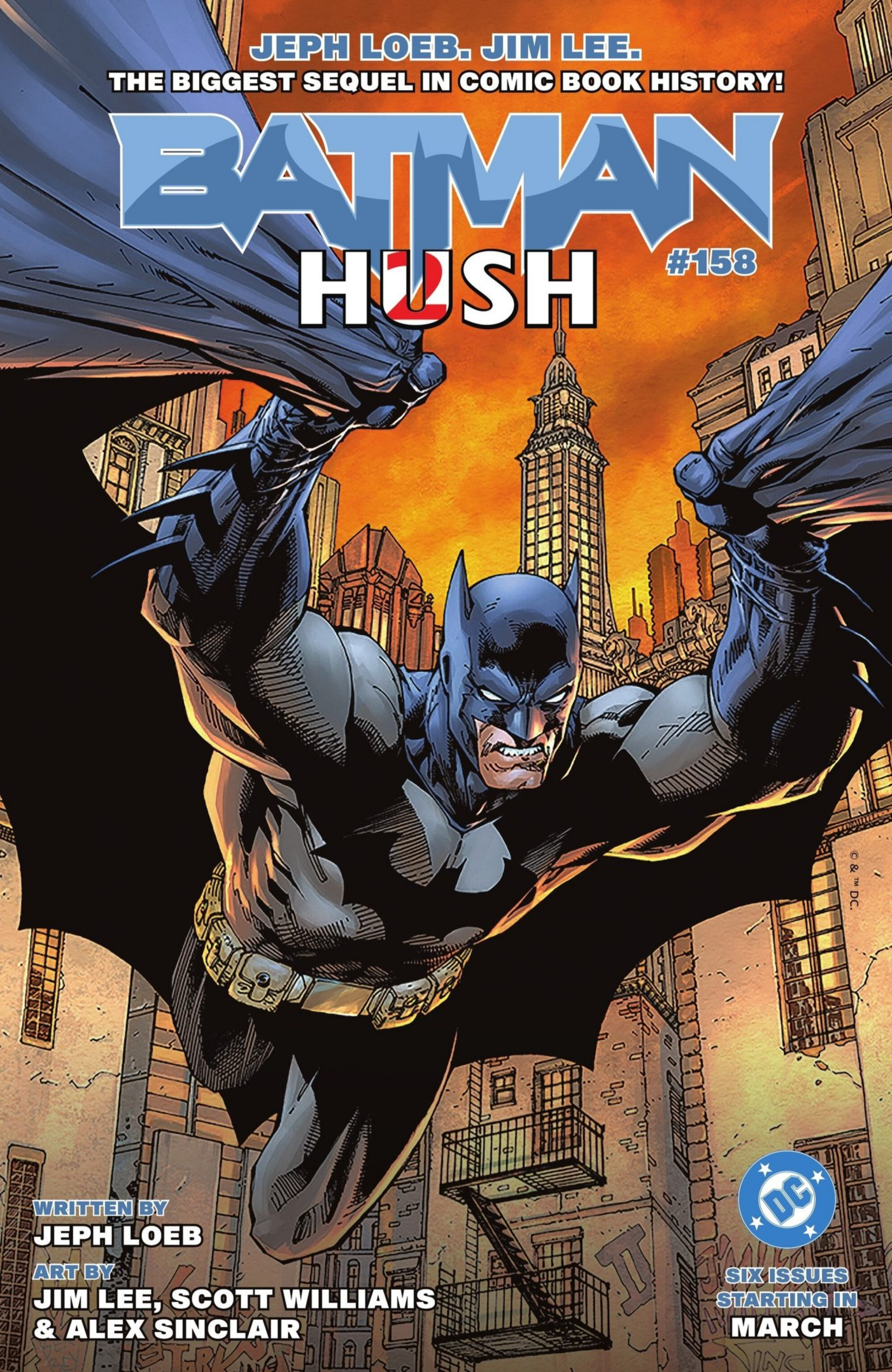
SANDOVAL

JEPH LOEB. JIM LEE.
THE BIGGEST SEQUEL IN COMIC BOOK HISTORY!

BATMAN

HUSH

#158



WRITTEN BY
JEPH LOEB

ART BY
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS
& ALEX SINCLAIR



SIX ISSUES
STARTING IN
MARCH

**KRYPTON.
SIX YEARS
AGO.**

THOSE DAYS
AFTER THE STORY
BROKE...WERE
DIFFICULT ONES.



**VIOLENT
ONES.**

**RUN,
KAL!**

GET
TO THE
TRUCK!

AFTER MY ENTIRE FAMILY WAS
SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SCIENCE
LEAGUE, LAW GUILD SHOCK
TROOPS RAIDED OUR HOME.



FORCING US TO
FIGHT OUR WAY
TO SAFETY.

STOP
RIGHT THERE!
IN THE NAME
OF THE--



AAAARRGGH!

BUT THERE
WAS NO SAFE
PLACE LEFT
ON KRYPTON.

NOT
FOR US.

NOT FOR
ANYONE.





THEY'RE
BLOCKING THE
ROADS! WHAT
DO WE DO?!

HOLD
ON!

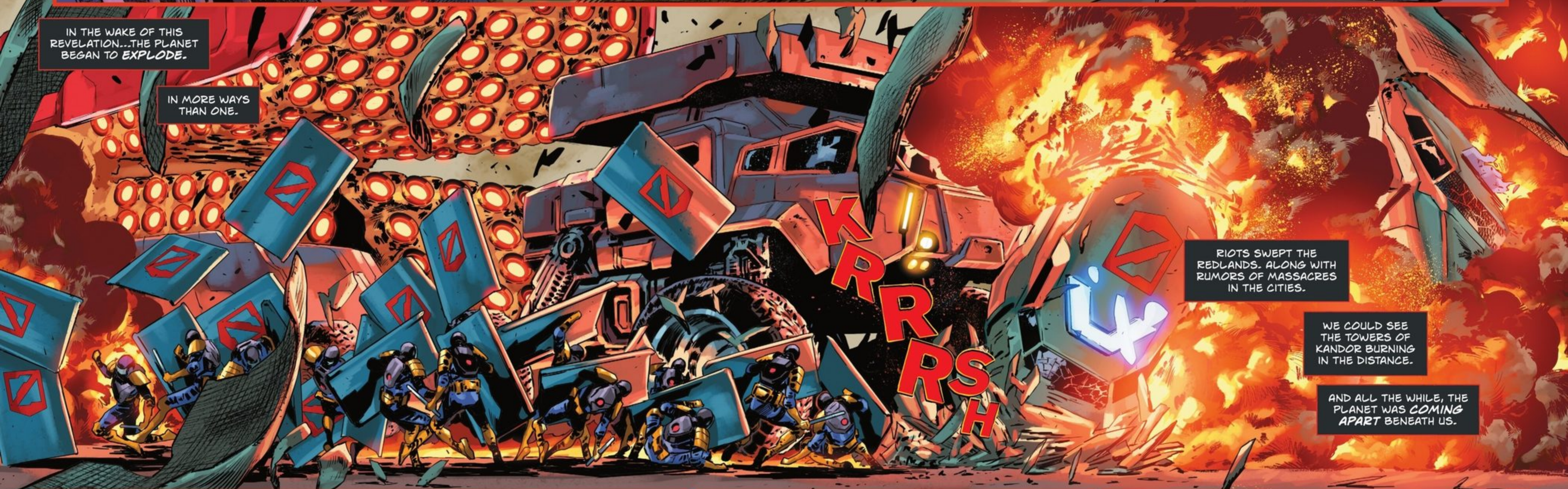
THE WORLD KNEW THE
TRUTH. THAT KRYPTON WAS
BREATHING ITS LAST.

AND THE SCIENCE
LEAGUE HAD KNOWN
FOR MONTHS.

BUT THEY'D HIDDEN
THE TRUTH. WHILE
SECRETLY ENACTING
THEIR OWN PLANS
FOR ESCAPE.

IN THE WAKE OF THIS
REVELATION...THE PLANET
BEGAN TO EXPLODE.

IN MORE WAYS
THAN ONE.



RIOTS SWEEPED THE
REDLANDS. ALONG WITH
RUMORS OF MASSACRES
IN THE CITIES.

WE COULD SEE
THE TOWERS OF
KANDOR BURNING
IN THE DISTANCE.

AND ALL THE WHILE, THE
PLANET WAS COMING
APART BENEATH US.

I DON'T KNOW
WHICH WAS WORSE...

HOW WE KRYPTONIANS
HAD ABUSED OUR
HOMEWORLD...

WHERE
DO WE
GO?!

ANYWHERE
BUT HERE!



...SO BRUTALLY, SO
HEEDLESSLY FOR
SO VERY LONG.

OR WHAT WE
DID TO ONE
ANOTHER...



CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

...IN THOSE, OUR
FINAL, SHAMEFUL
HOURS.



MAYBE I
CAN...I CAN
RECONFIGURE
THE STARSLIDE
ENGINES ONE
MORE TIME.



MAKE
ENOUGH ROOM
TO SQUEEZE ANOTHER
PERSON ON BOARD.
MAYBE **TWO**.
I JUST...I
NEED...

LARA,
YOU SAID SO
YOURSELF...THERE'S
NOTHING MORE YOU
CAN DO WITHOUT
COMPROMISING
THE SHIP'S
INTEGRITY.



BUT THERE
ARE **SO MANY**
PEOPLE STILL OUT
THERE, JOR. MORE
COUSINS AND
NEIGHBORS.

THE DOOL
FAMILY DOWN
THE STREET. THE...
THE GELKS, WHO HAD
US OVER FOR DINNER
THAT TIME. OLD MAN
TIR, WHO ALWAYS
SMILES AND
WAVES.

LARA...
WE CAN'T SAVE
EVERYONE. THERE
JUST ISN'T
TIME.



THIS...

...WILL
HAVE TO BE
ENOUGH.



IT'LL
HAVE TO BE
ENOUGH.



RAGE SWELLED
WITHIN ME, AS
I WATCHED MY
PARENTS WEEP.

AND I REMEMBER
SWEARING TO MYSELF...
THAT WHATEVER WORLD
WE FOUND OUR WAY
TO NEXT...



...WE WOULD
MAKE **BETTER**
THAN THIS ONE.

NO MATTER
WHAT IT TOOK.

EARTH. PAKISTAN. PEACEMAKER OUTPOST. NOW.

HERE HE
COMES!

HOLD YOUR
POSITIONS!

GOOD
GOD! HOW
THE HELL ARE
WE SUPPOSED
TO STOP
THAT?!

LIKE YOU'RE
DAMN WELL
PAID TO! LIKE
PEACEMAKERS!

OPEN
FIRE!

THOOM

THOOM

FWOOSH

SH

AAAAARRRGH!





HE ISN'T
HERE.

WHERE IS
HE, SOL?

ACCESSING THE
LAZARUS DATABASE.
KAL, ONCE AGAIN, I
STRONGLY ADVISE
AGAINST THIS--



**FIND
HIM!**



THE LAZARUS CORP CYBER DEFENSES
ARE OF A SOPHISTICATION BEYOND THIS
PLANET'S NATURAL CAPABILITIES.
PEACEMAKER SMITH'S WHEREABOUTS
ARE HEAVILY ENCRYPTED.

CHRISTOPHER
SMITH! HE
MURDERED
TWENTY-THREE
INNOCENT
PEOPLE!

WHERE IS
LAZARUS
HIDING
HIM?!



**WHERE
IS HE?!**

**AAARGH,
I DON'T
KNOW!**

RAGE FLOODS MY GUTS, LIKE
THE LAVA THAT SWALLOWED
THE REDLANDS.

I AM THE FURY
OF BILLIONS.



HRRHK!
PLEASE...

CLOAKED IN THE RED ASHES OF
KRYPTON. THE POWER OF THE SUN
EXPLODING THROUGH MY VEINS.

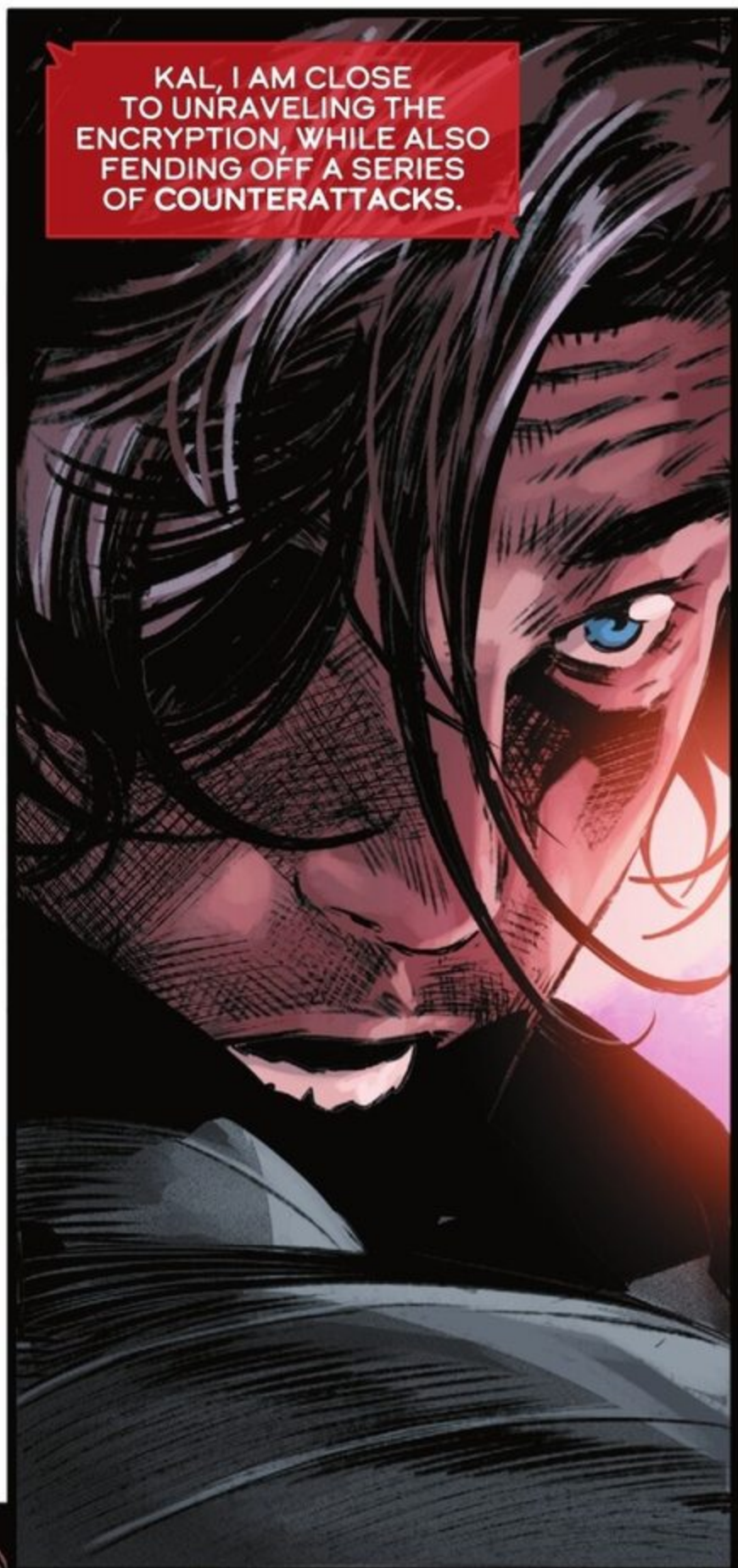
MY ENTIRE WORLD DIED
SCREAMING, WHILE I WAS
HELPLESS TO STOP IT.



BUT I'M
NOT HELPLESS
ANYMORE.

PLEASE...

...DON'T
KILL ME.



KAL, I AM CLOSE TO UNRAVELING THE ENCRYPTION, WHILE ALSO FENDING OFF A SERIES OF COUNTERATTACKS.



SOMEONE CALLED... BRAINIAC IS ATTEMPTING TO INFILTRATE MY SYSTEMS.

SOL...



I'VE FOUND HIM.

SMITH?

BRAINIAC. HE'S AT A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY IN THE NEVADA DESERT.

THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH...MINIATURIZED ALIEN CITIES, STORED IN BOTTLES.

KAL, THERE ARE PEOPLE INSIDE THEM. PEOPLE WHO WON'T STOP SCREAMING.

THOOM



BRAINIAC...WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU. HE IS OFFERING SMITH'S WHEREABOUTS. WE CAN FIND HIM AT--



WHOOOSH

LAZARUS

KRYPTON.
THE REDLANDS!
THEN.

ALL RIGHT,
EVERYBODY ON
BOARD, *NOW!* WE
CAN'T WAIT ANY
LONGER!



LET THE
SHIP *BOND*
WITH YOU AND
BECOME YOUR
SPACESUIT.

EVERY PART
OF THE VESSEL IS A
WHOLE IN AND OF ITSELF,
SO WE'LL ALL BE SAFE
ONCE WE TAKE OFF
AND...

KAL?



KAL-EL!

RAWF!

YEAH,
KRYPTO,
I KNOW,
BUDDY. I'M
JUST...



JUST SAYING
GOODBYE.

SO WHAT
DO YOU THINK
THE *NEXT*
PLANET WILL
BE LIKE?





I LIKE TO THINK THERE WERE **TENDER MOMENTS** HAPPENING ELSEWHERE ON KRYPTON THAT DAY.



LOVED ONES WHO CHOSE TO SPEND THEIR FINAL HOURS IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS.

THOSE WHO WADED INTO THE CHAOS TO TREAT THE WOUNDED...

...OR TO CALL FOR **PEACE**, EVEN AS THE FLAMES ROSE AROUND THEM.

KAL!
HOLD ON,
WE'LL PULL
YOU UP!

I LIKE TO THINK IN THOSE FINAL HOURS, THERE WERE KRYPTONIANS **SOMEWHERE** OUT THERE WHO WERE FIGHTING TO HELP EACH OTHER.



AND THAT IT WASN'T JUST ONE BOY BEING SAVED BY HIS **DOG**.

GOOD DOG,
KRYPTO.

I LIKE TO THINK THIS.

AND SOME DAYS...

...I ALMOST BELIEVE IT.

KANDOR.

GO
BACK TO
YOUR HOMES!
BY ORDER OF
THE SCIENCE
LEAGUE!

NO, KEEP
THEM BACK! KILL
THEM IF YOU HAVE
TO! THE SHIPS CAN'T
TAKE OFF IF
THEY--

THE KLERICS CONSPIRED FOR
MONTHS TO BUILD ENOUGH SHIPS
TO EVACUATE THE KRYPTONIAN
ELITE FROM THE DYING PLANET.

WHAT COULD KRYPTON
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN
THAT TIME IF THE GUILDS
HAD ALLOWED THEMSELVES
TO WORK *TOGETHER*?

MORE PEOPLE
WOULD'VE BEEN
SAVED, NO DOUBT.

MAYBE
NOT ALL.

BUT AS
IT WAS...



...NOT A **SINGLE**
SHIP MANAGED TO
TAKE OFF THAT DAY.

NOT A
ONE.



NOT FROM
THE **CITIES**,
AT LEAST.



ON BOARD OUR SHIP, PEOPLE WERE CRYING. EVERYONE WAS FRIGHTENED.



BUT THE STRANGEST THING HAPPENED TO ME ONCE WE TOOK FLIGHT.

I FELT A PROFOUND CALMNESS COME OVER ME.



A CONFIDENCE I HAD NEVER KNOWN.

HEY.



DON'T BE SCARED.

THIS IS A GREAT SHIP.

THE BEST SHIP THAT'S EVER FLOWN.



MY MOM AND DAD BUILT IT.

I FELT HOPE.

I THINK I EVEN SMILED.



AND THEN... WITH THE SPEED OF A BULLET...

...A BULLET FIRED FROM A GUN THE SIZE OF A PLANET...







FOR TEN BILLION YEARS,
THE PLANET KRYPTON
BASKED IN THE BLISTERING
RED LIGHT OF ITS SUN.



TOWARD THE END OF ITS
EXISTENCE, THE PLANET
HAD BECOME RIDDLED
WITH **PARASITES**.



TINY CREATURES INFESTED
KRYPTON'S STAR-HARDENED SKIN,
EVISCERATING THE WORLD ONE
HANDFUL OF GUTS AT A TIME.

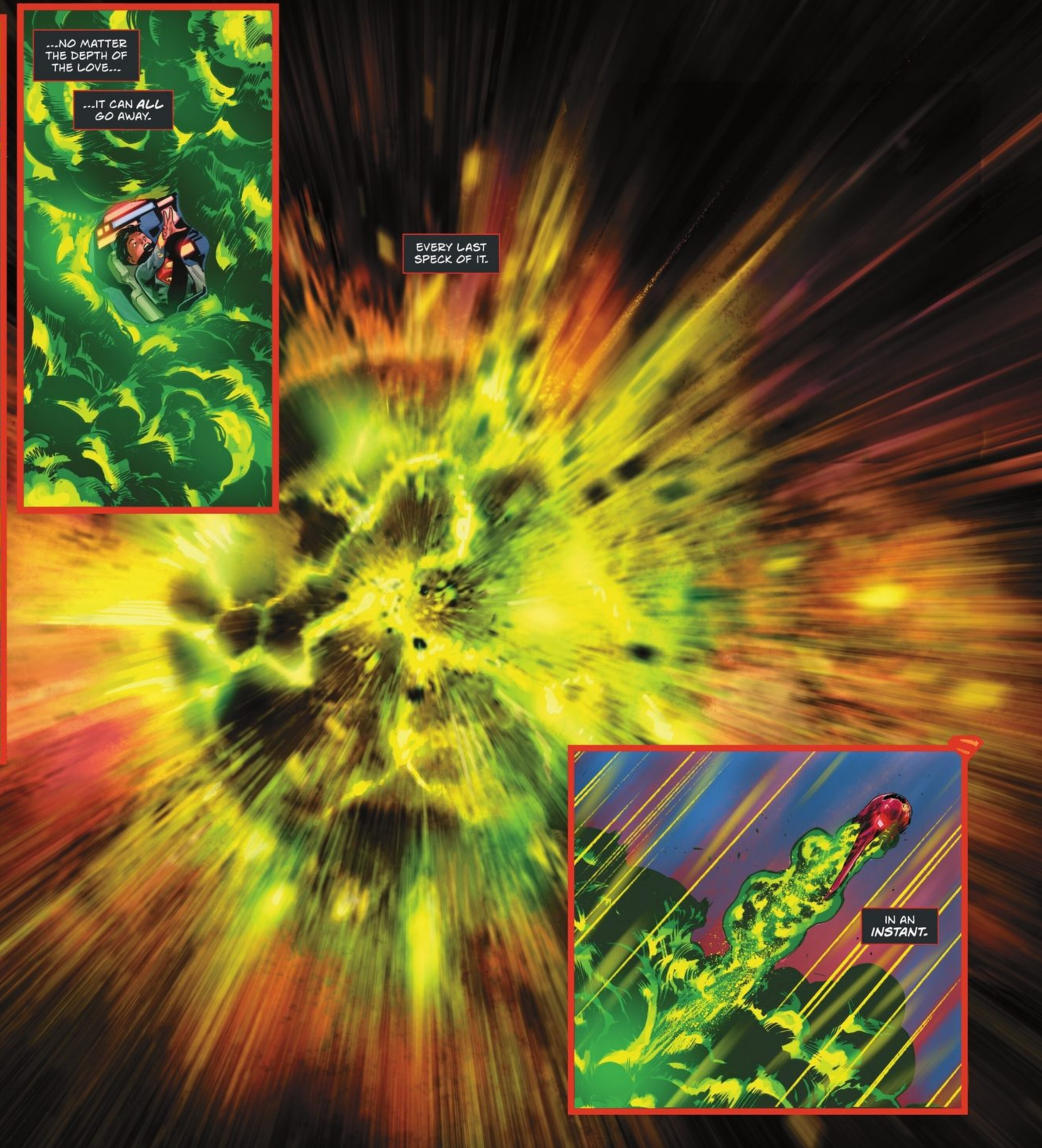
UNTIL ITS INSIDES
BECAME UNSTABLE. UNTIL
ITS BLACKENED LUNGS
WHEEZED AND GUSHED
RADIOACTIVE BILE.



TEN BILLION YEARS,
MY HOMEWORLD
STUBBORNLY ENDURED.

AND IT ONLY TOOK A FEW
MEASLY MILLION FOR
PEOPLE TO RUIN IT ALL.







NOW.
EARTH.

KAL...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
AS I TOLD YOU, I WAS
CLOSE TO UNCOVERING
THE LOCATION OF--

FORGET
SMITH.

I DON'T
WANT TO KNOW
WHERE HE'S
HIDING.

BECAUSE IF
I KNOW...I'M
AFRAID...

AFRAID OF LAZARUS?
GIVEN WHAT I'VE LEARNED
ABOUT BRAINIAC, I CAN
PROMISE YOU THIS FEAR
IS WARRANTED.

NO. IF
I GET MY
HANDS ON
SMITH...

...I'M
AFRAID...
OF WHAT I
MIGHT *DO*
TO HIM.

RIGHT
NOW...I JUST
NEED TO BE
ALONE.

AND
MOSTLY...I
NEED TO BE
REMINDED,
SOL.

REMINDED
OF WHAT,
KAL-EL?

SMALLVILLE KANSAS

10 MILES AHEAD

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

OF
HOME.

NEXT:
WELCOME TO
SMALLVILLE!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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RAFA SANDOVAL *ARTIST*
ULISES ARREOLA *COLORIST*
BECCA CAREY *LETTERER*

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SEAN MURPHY & SIMON GOUGH,
JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG, DARICK ROBERTSON
& DIEGO RODRIGUEZ *VARIANT COVERS*

LAST DUST OF KRYPTON

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

FINALE

*AD ASTRA
PER ASPERA*

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY
SIEGEL FAMILY.

DC CELEBRATES **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**
WITH NEW VARIANT COVERS
BY SUPERSTAR ARTIST
JENNY FRISON!



Absolute Wonder Woman #6



Aquaman #3



Birds of Prey #19



Justice League Unlimited #5



The New Gods #5



Titans #21



On sale in
MARCH



NATION

SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

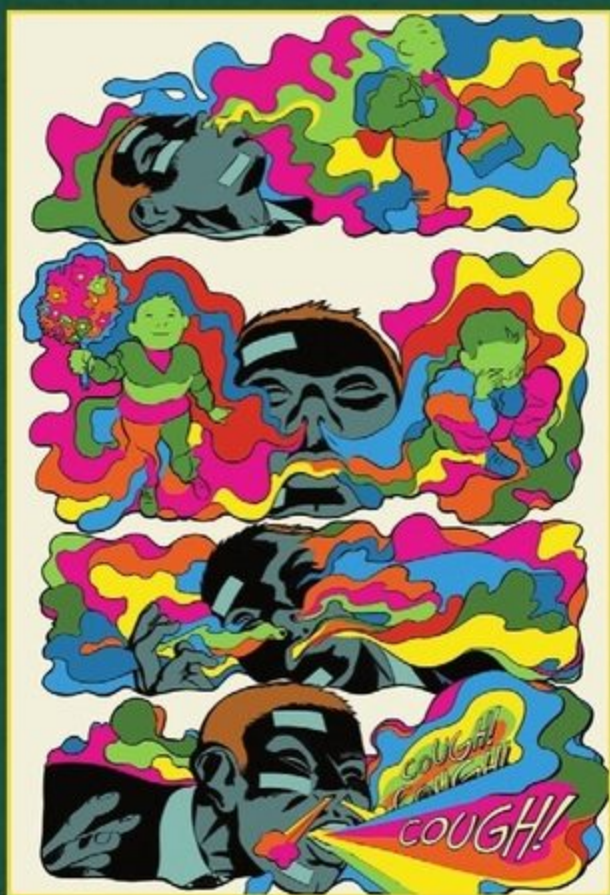
ABSOLUTE MARTIAN MANHUNTER

DC's bestselling, critically acclaimed Absolute line continues this year with three new series, including *Absolute Martian Manhunter* by writer Deniz Camp and artist Javier Rodríguez—a mind-bending, kaleidoscopic reinvention of the fan-favorite Justice League mainstay.

Here's how Camp himself describes the “psychedelic alien invasion/buddy cop” series:

When an other-dimensional alien consciousness invades the mind of rule-following FBI agent John Jones, Jones is drafted into a cosmic war against invaders made of pure mind, making him question the nature of reality, the distinction between good and evil, and the existence of free will.

While that's surely enough to get you excited for *Absolute Martian Manhunter*, take a look at these astounding interior pages by Rodríguez to get an idea of what kind of visual feast to expect from this series—and keep an eye out for *Absolute Flash* #1 and *Absolute Green Lantern* #1, also on sale this spring.



DON'T MISS
**ABSOLUTE MARTIAN
MANHUNTER #1,**
ON SALE IN MARCH!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

